



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 12, 2003, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: May 11, 2003  
CWP WA-CW1903

## Prolonged Overnight Freezing Reported in the Palouse Dairy Producers Busy Harvesting Green Chop

### Field Crops

Continued wet conditions had crops looking very good in the Palouse but also raised concerns about rust. Stripe rust has been reported in southern Adams County. Prolonged overnight freezing conditions were experienced earlier in the week in Whitman County, but damage has not been reported. Cooler temperatures have slowed the development of spring cereals, but conditions remained mostly fair to good. In Franklin County, the first cutting of alfalfa was underway, while potato planting finished. Christmas tree growers in Thurston County were setting out Midge traps in Douglas fir plantations.

### Livestock

Dairy producers in western Washington were busy harvesting green chop and applying manure to harvested fields. Livestock owners were also fencing hay fields for rotational grazing. In Ferry and Okanogan Counties, all cattle were reported to have been turned out onto spring rangeland. Range and pasture conditions were 1% poor, 55% fair, 43% good, and 1% excellent.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Asian pear producers in Grays Harbor County reported excellent bloom and minimal frost damage to blossoms to date. Blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries were flowering and doing well across the west. Garden stores and nurseries reported excellent sales volume for the Mother's Day weekend. Poor fruit set was reported in cherries in the mid-valley area of Benton County. Several nights of moderate frost control and cooler than ideal temperatures slowed fruit development for much of the week in the Yakima Valley. Asparagus harvest continued in Franklin and Benton Counties and sweet corn planting continued in Grant.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.4
Last Week	5.7

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	6	85	9
Subsoil	0	9	89	2
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	0	8	91	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	98	96	93	97
Spring Wheat Emerged	84	70	70	82
Winter Wheat Headed	5	3	5	5
Barley Planted	98	97	94	95
Barley Emerged	85	67	73	78
Potatoes Planted	99	88	96	97
Potatoes Emerged	48	32	39	49
Corn Planted	75	67	57	69
Corn Emerged	27	10	4	11
Dry Edible Beans Planted	45	35	17	7
Proc. Green Peas Planted	97	84	57	48
Dry Peas Planted	97	73	72	83
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	13	8	6	4

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	7	20	53	18
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	2	82	16
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	41	38	21
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	97	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	32	40	28
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Potatoes	0	0	11	57	32
Corn	0	0	0	100	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	0	38	62

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** A week of fairly nice weather resulted in a flurry of activity as ag producers continued field cultivation in preparation for spring planting. Dairy producers were busy harvesting green chop and applying manure to harvested fields. Asian pear producers reported excellent bloom and minimal frost damage to blossoms to date. Blueberry growers were mulching new fields with sawdust. Livestock owners were fencing hay fields for rotational grazing. Scotch broom was bursting into bloom throughout the rural landscape.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** Progress on fieldwork was being made between showers. A week of dry weather is needed.

**Kitsap:** Producers were busy with fieldwork. Early crops and bedding plants were being direct marketed through CSAs and area farmer's markets.

**Pierce/S. King:** Crop conditions improved with the sunny days and light rains. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage.

**Skagit:** The weather has been mild. Growers were planting spring crops. Many fields have been too wet to plant due to prior wet weather.

**Snohomish/N. King:** The week began with cold, wet weather. The weather for the last few days of the week was

perfect spring weather. The long, warm and sunny days helped make it possible to catch up on those spring jobs that have been delayed. Dairies continued to green chop and make grass silage. Fieldwork was on schedule in most areas. Strawberry fields were beginning to show blossoms. Nurseries were very busy with landscapers, and gardener's projects created high demand for plants.

**Thurston:** Ag producers took advantage of a week of fairly nice weather to continue field cultivation. Christmas tree growers were setting out Midge traps in Douglas fir plantations. Dairy producers were making green chop and applying liquid manure from lagoons to harvested forage fields. Turfgrass growers began plowing harvested fields in preparation for re-seeding. Truck farmers were planting early season vegetables. Retail garden stores and nurseries reported excellent sales volume for the Mother's Day weekend.

**Whatcom:** The weather has been good for continued planting of crops. Weed control and plowing of rows continued on raspberries. There was good growth on canes. Strawberries began flowering. Blueberries were flowering and weed control was used as required. Less than 50 percent of the crops have been planted at this time. Grass has been cut and chopped and put in bunkers. The first cutting was good with grass approximately 5-10" high.

## Central

**Benton:** Poor fruit set was reported in cherries in the mid-valley area. Cool temperatures continued to slow crop advancement. Asparagus harvest continued.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Cool temperatures continued. Frost protection measures were implemented by fruit producers. Almost all intended spring wheat and barley have been planted in Douglas County. Some light precipitation was received during the week. Moisture for the crop year was significantly better than in the past several years.

**Ferry/Okanogan:** Irrigation of alfalfa hay began. Apple trees were in full bloom. All cattle have now been turned out onto spring rangeland.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were generally mild and mostly sunny with some wind. Asparagus harvest continued. The first cutting of alfalfa was underway. Potato planting was complete.

**Grant:** Sweet corn planting continued.

**Yakima:** Several nights of moderate frost control and cooler than ideal temperatures put the brakes on fruit development for much of the week.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures ranged from 9 degrees below normal to 4 degrees above normal, with .02 inches of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat remained in mostly fair to good condition, however; stripe rust has been reported in the southern end of the county. Spring cereals remained in fair to good condition. Moisture conditions remained adequate.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Mother nature celebrated Mother's Day with a colorful array of purples and yellows with the blooming lupines, brown-eyed susans and other wildflowers in the rangeland areas of the county. Crop wise, things continued to look good overall, although word of the spread of diseases in the red wheat was filtering in, as was the notice of a few light frost events during midweek. No assessments of damages by growers have been reported.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Many farmers finished planting spring crops with the exception of the highest elevations near the Blue Mountains. Rain showers in these areas prevented some producers from completing spring planting. Good growing conditions were prevalent in other areas as daytime temperatures rose to normal levels. Crops were in good condition and rangeland was improving.

**Lincoln:** Crops were in need of warmer weather, especially as moisture conditions remained adequate. Freezing nighttime temperatures slowed the development of spring planted cereals. Winter wheat remained in mostly fair to good condition as did the spring planted cereals.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Fieldwork began late Wednesday and was in full swing the rest of the week. Rain showers Sunday evening (May 11) slowed things down again. Some of the ground along the Idaho border has still not been worked due to the wet soils. The warmer temperatures made the planted grains emerge and the pasture and hay crops crop grow a little. Frost for three nights during the week set the alfalfa back a bit, but the warm weather made things look better.

**Stevens:** The week began with heavy rain showers. Frost occurred in some areas mid-week. Warmer temperatures and sunshine over the weekend was beneficial to pasture and crop development.

**Walla Walla:** Conditions were favorable for the week. Crops throughout the area were in good condition.

**Whitman:** Continued wet conditions had crops looking very good but also raised concerns about rust. Spring work was wrapping up, and growers continued to finish seeding and spraying operations between rain storms. Prolonged overnight freezing conditions were experienced earlier in the week. Temperatures have since warmed up, helping with pasture growth and crop development.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: [nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

May 12, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	33	63	50	-3	11	-8	0	0	0.20	-0.35	1	22.51	-7.75	74	121
Everett	39	61	50	-3	10	-12	0	0	0.36	-0.20	2	22.89	-7.35	76	124
Hoquiam	33	60	49	-4	5	-16	0	0	0.01	-0.77	1	58.80	-2.31	96	138
Kelso	36	63	50	-4	9	-17	0	0	0.00	-0.58	0	23.19	-17.21	57	97
Olympia	30	67	49	-3	4	-12	0	0	0.04	-0.48	2	35.80	-9.80	79	130
Sea-Tac	38	62	51	-3	13	-14	0	0	0.22	-0.20	2	29.99	-2.76	92	122
Shelton	33	66	50	-5	11	-20	0	0	0.28	-0.31	2	53.67	-5.86	90	129
Tacoma	34	64	49	-5	9	-20	0	0	0.02	-0.47	1	25.64	-9.47	73	117
Vancouver	39	66	52	-2	16	-11	0	0	0.25	-0.31	3	33.39	-2.76	92	128
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	29	69	50	-4	18	-8	0	0	0.05	-0.04	2	7.74	0.37	105	75
Omak	31	72	52	0	27	4	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	11.56	0.59	105	56
Stampede Pass	28	52	38	-2	0	0	0	0	0.79	-0.05	4	55.70	-16.85	77	127
Wenatchee	39	72	55	-2	35	-14	1	-5	0.00	-0.13	0	8.59	1.84	127	69
Yakima AP	29	70	53	-3	31	-7	1	1	0.02	-0.05	2	7.85	1.31	120	54
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	31	72	50	-3	14	-8	0	0	0.52	0.10	2	15.08	-1.36	92	61
Deer Park	25	68	47	-6	7	-15	0	0	0.11	-0.24	1	18.62	3.99	127	85
Spokane AP	29	67	47	-5	8	-13	0	0	0.01	-0.27	1	13.23	0.36	103	90
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	30	71	54	-5	35	-21	0	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	7.36	1.58	127	50
Moses Lake	28	74	53	-6	29	-27	0	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	7.68	1.90	133	69
Quincy	37	72	53	-4	26	-21	0	-4	0.00	-0.11	0	6.00	-0.33	95	49
Ritzville	28	69	48	-5	10	-13	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	10.51	1.26	114	74
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	36	74	55	-7	35	-43	3	-14	0.00	-0.08	0	7.80	2.39	144	63
Pasco	30	75	54	-6	33	-33	0	-11	0.00	-0.14	0	6.58	0.41	107	68
Pullman	28	64	46	-6	0	-15	0	0	0.20	-0.15	1	8.76	-8.25	51	79
Whitman Miss.	30	70	51	-5	16	-27	0	0	0.01	-0.27	1	13.68	2.56	123	109
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	32	66	47	-7	2	-25	0	0	0.43	0.01	3	16.28	-4.08	80	85
Lewiston ID	34	69	51	-7	19	-27	0	-3	0.18	-0.10	2	10.84	1.98	122	96

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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